

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, after the title, please add the following paragraph:

This application is a national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/CH2004/000392, filed on June 25, 2004.

On page 1, before the first paragraph, please add the following heading:

TECHNICAL FIELD

On page 1, before the second paragraph, please add the following heading:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On page 1, before the sixth paragraph, please add the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, please amend the sixth paragraph as follows:

According to the an embodiment of the invention, the a muzzle is provided that comprises a restraining part designed to surround the animal's mouth to prevent it from opening, and means for holding the part on the head. [[It is characterized in that the]] The restraining part is may be arranged in such a way that it opens elastically so long as it is subjected to a force less than a limit value, and it is may be locked if that force is exceeded.

On page 2, amend the second paragraph as follows:

~~Advantageously~~ According to an embodiment of the invention, the restraining part may includes a strap designed to surround the animal's mouth, and a locking

mechanism ~~co-operating~~ cooperating with the strap. Further, as disclosed herein, the locking mechanism may comprise and comprising:

- a reel provided with a core to which one end of the strap is attached;
- a frame on which the reel is rotatably mounted ~~mobile in rotation~~ and to which the other end of the strap is attached;
- a spring linking the reel to the frame and arranged in such a way that ~~said the~~ the strap is wound on the reel when the spring is let down, while the spring is wound when the strap is unreeled;
- a device for measuring the speed of rotation of the reel~~[[,]]~~ ; and
- a bolt ~~co-operating~~ cooperating with the speed measurement device and arranged so as to lock the reel when the speed exceeds a limit value corresponding to the force applied.

On page 2, amend the third paragraph as follows:

The speed measurement device and the bolt can be of the mechanical inertia type. More specifically, the speed measurement device ~~contains~~ may contain an inertia component positioned elastically and pivotably mounted ~~pivoting~~ on the reel around an axis offset relative to its centre of gravity. The Further, in accordance with one embodiment, the bolt includes a lock mechanism provided with:

- teeth integral with the frame, and
- a finger contained in the inertia component in its part opposite the pivoting axis relative to the ~~centre~~ center of gravity, designed to ~~co-operate~~ cooperate with the teeth.

On page 3, amend the first paragraph as follows:

Accordingly, the finger can move freely relative to the teeth so long as the reel's speed of rotation is below a limit value. On the other hand, it ~~engages~~ may engage with the teeth whenever the speed exceeds ~~said~~ the limit and thus locks the reel.

On page 3, amend the second paragraph as follows:

As a variant, the speed measurement device ~~contains~~ may contain an electric sensor, ~~whereras~~ whereas the bolt ~~contains~~ may contain an electromechanical transducer and a latch actuated by the transducer, which ~~co-operates~~ may cooperate with the reel to lock it when the speed exceeds the limit value.

On page 3, amend the third paragraph as follows:

Advantageously, in accordance with another embodiment, the sensor ~~contains~~ may contain a generator equipped with a rotor and a stator, one incorporating a magnet and the other a winding. The generator rotor is may be mounted rigidly on the reel. The winding ~~contains~~ may contain two terminals connected to the transducer terminals. The generator and the transducer ~~are~~ may be arranged in such a way that the bolt is may be activated whenever the reel exceeds its limit speed of rotation.

On page 3, before the fourth paragraph, please add the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 3, amend the fourth paragraph as follows:

Other advantages and characteristics of the invention will appear from the following description, made with reference to the appended ~~drawing~~ drawings, in which, by way of example, illustrate several embodiments of the invention. In the drawings:

- Figures 1a and 1b show a dog fitted with a muzzle, ~~as per~~ in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;
- Figures 2 to 4 illustrate, in perspective, part of a locking mechanism associated with the exemplary muzzle in Figure 1, in accordance with embodiments of the invention; and
- Figure 5 shows ~~the~~ an electrical diagram of a variant, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

On page 3, before the fifth paragraph, please add the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

On page 3, amend the fifth paragraph as follows:

Figures 1a and 1b show a dog's head 10 fitted with an exemplary muzzle 12 as per an embodiment of the invention, in front and rear views, respectively.

On page 3, amend the sixth paragraph as follows:

The muzzle 12 includes a restraining part 14 designed to surround the animal's mouth and ~~comprising~~ comprises two straps 16 and a locking mechanism 18, provided with a box 19 ~~alone visible on this figure~~ Figure 1a, to which are attached the two ends of the straps 16, and means for holding the part 14 on the head 10, comprising a lace 20 and a clip 22, the latter being visible only on Figure 1b.

On page 4, amend the first paragraph as follows:

The mechanism 18, which will be described in further detail with reference to the embodiments of Figures 2 to 4, is may be arranged in such a way that, in the absence

of restraint, the straps 16 tend to wind up in the box 19. Accordingly, to place ~~in position~~ the muzzle 12 in position, all that is needed is to pull on ~~these~~ straps 16 to form two adjacent loops in which the animal's nose is inserted, and then run the lace 20 behind the ears and close the clip 22.

On page 4, amend the second paragraph as follows:

Figures 2 to 4 show part of the locking mechanism 18, performing the locking function for one of the straps 16. The other part is may be identical. ~~It has therefore and~~ has not been shown. One can see ~~on these figures from Figures 2 to 4,~~ a U-frame 24~~[[,]]~~ may be provided with a base 24a and two arms 24b and 24c parallel to one another and perpendicular to the base 24a. The arms 24b and 24c ~~are~~ may be pierced with coaxial holes 24d and 24e, respectively (see Figure 3). In hole 24d, which may be tapped, ~~is inserted~~ a threaded shaft 26 may be inserted, which ~~bears~~ may bear a reel 28 fitted with a core 28a inserted on shaft 26 and a flange 28b adjacent to arm 24b. The core 28a is may be hollow and inserted on the shaft 26. ~~It passes~~ Core 28a may pass right through hole 24e and ~~goes~~ extend beyond arm 24c.

On page 4, amend the third paragraph as follows:

The inner end of a coil spring 30 is may be mounted on the part of the core 28a, by insertion in a slot 28c (see Figure 2). ~~It is~~ Coil spring 30 may be attached by its outer end to the outer wall of arm 24c, by means of a slotted stud 32.

On page 4, amend the fourth paragraph as follows:

As can be seen ~~on~~ from Figure 4, arm 24b is may be provided with internal teeth 24f consisting of gullet teeth ~~and~~ which may extend from the edge of arm 24b toward its ~~centre~~ center, concentric with shaft 26 and the side of flange 28b.

On page 4, amend the fifth paragraph as follows:

Flange 28b ~~carries~~ may carry two studs 34, visible ~~on~~ in Figure 3, each supporting a click 36. Leaf springs 38 ~~are~~ may be attached by one of their ends to the body 36a of click 36, by insertion in a slot, and by the other end to flange 28b by means of a slotted stud 40. The springs 38 ~~are~~ may be advantageously attached by clamping in one of the slots, at either of their ends.

On page 5, amend the first paragraph as follows:

The clicks 36 may pivot on the flange 28b around an axis parallel to the axis of the reel 28. ~~They~~ Clicks 36 may contain a latch 36b, located at the end of body 36a and arranged so as to ~~co-operate~~ cooperate with the teeth 24f, as will be explained further on.

On page 5, amend the second paragraph as follows:

The ~~centres~~ centers of gravity of the clicks 36, identified by the letter G, ~~are~~ may be located between the pivoting axis and the latch 36b. Without restraint, the springs 38 may position the clicks 36 so that they can move freely relative to the teeth 24f. If the reel 28 turns, centrifugal force ~~causes~~ may cause the latches 36b to move outward, the extent of this movement increasing with the speed. For a limit value of the speed, the clicks 36 may come into contact with the teeth 24f, thus locking the reel 28.

On page 5, amend the third paragraph as follows:

In accordance with one embodiment, ~~The~~ strap 16 is may be attached by one end to the core 28a of reel 28 and by the other end to the base 24a of frame 24 (see Figure 2). The spring 30 is may be arranged in such a way that it is relaxed when the strap is wound on the core 28b.

On page 5, amend the fourth paragraph as follows:

Tension exerted on the straps 16 ~~causes~~ may cause them to unwind from the reel 28, the speed of rotation of the reel 28 increasing with the force exerted. This tension ~~allows~~ may allow extraction of the straps 16 so long as the speed of rotation remains below the limit value. As soon as this value is exceeded, the latches 36b may engage with the teeth 24f where they are fastened and block rotation, and hence the extraction of strap 16. Accordingly, the restraining part 14 ~~works~~ may work in a similar manner to car seat belts.

On page 5, amend the fifth paragraph as follows:

To place the muzzle in position, ~~simply stretch~~ the straps 16 may be stretched gradually so as to extract them from the box 19, thus forming two loops placed over the animal's nose. After releasing the straps 16, the lace 20 is may be placed behind the animal's ears. ~~It is~~ Lace 20 may be held in position by pushing in the clip 22. Clip 22 is may be mounted with one of its parts sliding over the lace 20, so as to allow its length to be adjusted.

On page 6, amend the second paragraph as follows:

In Consistent with the variant shown schematically in Figure 5, ~~we find~~ the strap 16, the frame 24, the reel 28 and the spring 38 may be provided. The core 28a of reel 28 is may be extended, as shown schematically by an axis line, equally beyond arm 24a of the frame 24, and ~~carries~~ carry a ratchet wheel 42 and a rotor 44. The rotor 44 ~~belongs~~ may belong to a generator 46 also incorporating a stator 48 provided with a winding 50. An electromagnet 52 and a click 54 ~~are~~ may be placed in the vicinity of wheel 42. The electromagnet 52 ~~co-operates~~ may cooperate with a magnetic core comprised in the click 54. It is may be electrically connected to the generator winding 50. In addition, a spring 56 ~~co-operates~~ may cooperate with the click 54 so as to keep it remote from the wheel 42.

On page 6, amend the third paragraph as follows:

So long as the signal at the terminals of the electromagnet 52 generates a force less than that of the spring 56, the click 54 ~~remains~~ may remain in its rest position. As soon as this limit is exceeded, the click 54 ~~tilts~~ may tilt and ~~engages~~ engage with the teeth of the wheel 42, thus locking the wheel 42. Advantageously, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, the teeth of this wheel 42 ~~are~~ may be arranged so that the click 54 remains engaged with the teeth until the tension applied to the strap 16 is interrupted.

On page 6, amend the fourth paragraph as follows:

The signal applied to the electromagnet 52 is may be obtained by tension on the strap 16, which ~~causes~~ may cause the reel 28 to rotate, and with it the rotor 44, thereby

inducing a signal in the stator 48. This ~~occurs~~ may occur when the animal tends to open its mouth suddenly.

On page 6, amend the fifth paragraph as follows:

Regardless of ~~Whether the first or the second embodiment that~~ is adopted, the strap 16 ~~is~~ may be locked in its movement, preventing opening of the mouth and hence biting. Opening during panting or when the animal is drinking, on the other hand, ~~has~~ may have no effect on the mechanism 18, ~~accordingly and~~ in no way ~~affecting~~ affects such movements.

On page 8, change the heading to read:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: